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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/982,640	10/18/2001	Jeffrey P. Szmanda	801001	8158

30327 7590 03/31/2006

CHARLES R. SZMANDA
4 CROSSMAN AVENUE
WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581

EXAMINER


NGUYEN, CAM LINH T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application Number 	Application/Control No. 09/982,640 don wong	Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination SZMANDA, JEFFREY P. Art Unit 2163	
Document Code - AP.PRE.DEC			

Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review



This is in response to the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review filed 03-09-06.

1. ☐ **Improper Request** – The Request is improper and a conference will not be held for the following reason(s):

- ☐ The Notice of Appeal has not been filed concurrent with the Pre-Appeal Brief Request.
- ☐ The request does not include reasons why a review is appropriate.
- ☐ A proposed amendment is included with the Pre-Appeal Brief request.
- ☐ Other: _____

The time period for filing a response continues to run from the receipt date of the Notice of Appeal or from the mail date of the last Office communication, if no Notice of Appeal has been received.

2. ☒ **Proceed to Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences** – A Pre-Appeal Brief conference has been held. The application remains under appeal because there is at least one actual issue for appeal. Applicant is required to submit an appeal brief in accordance with 37 CFR 41.37. The time period for filing an appeal brief will be reset to be one month from mailing this decision, or the balance of the two-month time period running from the receipt of the notice of appeal, whichever is greater. Further, the time period for filing of the appeal brief is extendible under 37 CFR 1.136 based upon the mail date of this decision or the receipt date of the notice of appeal, as applicable.

☒ The panel has determined the status of the claim(s) is as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-44.

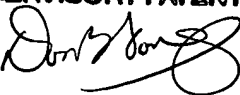
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

3. ☐ **Allowable application** – A conference has been held. The rejection is withdrawn and a Notice of Allowance will be mailed. Prosecution on the merits remains closed. No further action is required by applicant at this time.

4. ☐ **Reopen Prosecution** – A conference has been held. The rejection is withdrawn and a new Office action will be mailed. No further action is required by applicant at this time.

DONWONG
 All participants **SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**

(1) don wong



(3) Cam Linn Nguyen.

(2) Joe Dixon.

(4) _____.

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

DN801001

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

on

Signature

Typed or printed name **Charles R. Szmanda**

Application Number

09/982,640

Filed

10/18/2001

First Named Inventor

Jeffrey P. Szmanda

Art Unit

2171

Examiner

Cam-Linn Nguyen

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).

Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.

I am the

☐

applicant/inventor.

☐

assignee of record of the entire interest.

See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed.
(Form PTO/SB/96)

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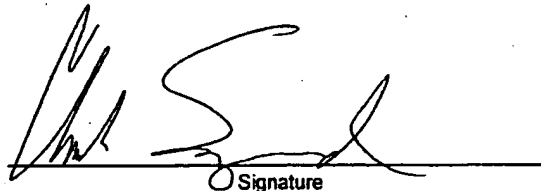
attorney or agent of record. 48,618

Registration number

☐

attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34.

Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34



Charles R. Szmanda

Typed or printed name

508 836 4143

Telephone number

3/9/06

Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

☐

*Total of _____ forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 132. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11, 1.14 and 41.6. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Jeffrey P. Szmanda

Serial No.: 09/982,640

Filed: 10/18/2001

For: A Method of Retrieving Advertising

Information and Use of the Method

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Pre Appeal Brief Request for Review

Applicant is in receipt of Examiner's Advisory Action dated 2 March, 2006. Claims 1-42 and 44 are pending in this application. However, Applicant did not and does not request entry of amendments after final as indicated by Examiner. No amendments after final were submitted by Applicant.

Per the USPTO memo: "New Pre-Appeal Brief Conference Pilot Program," dated 12 July, 2005, Applicant submits an index to the documents of record on which he relies in this paper:

Paper Number	Description
Paper 1	Applicant's specification, claims and drawings (as amended), filed 18 March, 2001.
Paper 2	Examiner's First Office Action, pp. 1-11, dated 12 April, 2004.
Paper 3	Applicant's Response to First Office Action, pp.1-41, dated 19 December, 2004.
Paper 4	Examiner's Final Rejection , pp. 1-11, dated 9 November, 2005.
Paper 5	Applicant's request for reconsideration, pp. 1-5, dated 9 February, 2006.
Paper 6	Examiner's Advisory Action, pp. 1-2, dated 2 March, 2006.
Paper 7	US6,098,065 to Skillen et al.
Paper 8	US6,421,652 to Loeb et al.

Remarks

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following is a concise explanation of the invention, which explanation is not intended to limit the scope of the claims to the embodiments shown and described in this paper.

The instant invention relates to a system for a method of retrieving stored information about advertisements, presented in any medium, the use of the method for the purpose of response facilitation, and the use of the method for the purpose of performing demographic research. Pursuant to the object of this invention, the user must supply facts about an advertisement and access a database comprising details of a plurality of advertisements.

The facts about an advertisement may be highly specific, relating to the advertised product or entirely general, such as relating to where the advertisement was experienced (radio, television, billboard, etc. or not at all), the type of advertisement (commercial, infomercial etc.), what was depicted in the advertisement (such as "A woman was climbing stairs and walking fast.") and so on (Paper 1 at Figure 7 and Example 1, ¶ 57). In addition, the invention can be used to perform demographic research by supplying terms having targeted connotative significance and accessing a database comprising details of a plurality of advertisements. Various refinements, methods of search, methods of database access and the like are presented in the specification and claims.

2. GROUNDS OF REJECTION

Claims 1-42 and 44 stand rejected under 35USC §102(b) as being unpatentable over US6,098,065 to Skillen et al.

Claims 1-10, 39-43 stand rejected under 35USC §102(e) as being unpatentable over US6,421,652 to Loeb et al.

Claims 11-38 stand rejected under 35USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over US6,421,652 to Loeb et al.

Rejection of claims 1, 11, 25, 39 and 42 as being unpatentable over Skillen. The following is a quotation from In re Marshall 198 USPQ 344,346 (CCPA 1978): "[r]ejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 are proper only when the claimed subject matter is identically disclosed or described in the prior art." As per claims 1 and 11, Examiner improperly rejected the aforesaid claims citing Skillen (Paper 7 at col. 4 lines 5-6 and col 2, lines 11-33), alleging that "Clearly information that the user searches for is advertising information." However, as Skillen is

understood, the reference discloses a method of generating targeted advertisements to a user who is searching for various reasons using general search terms; the targeted ads are those such as might be seen in the "Sponsored Links" of a Google search when one enters the term "patent law," for example. Indeed, nowhere does Skillen specify exactly what the user is searching for except to say that the user is searching for "information" (col. 2, line 30) or "desired information" (Abstract, col. 1, lines 40, 51, 59, col. 2, line 4, Claim 1). Examiner's assertion is merely speculation about an ambiguous reference and an ambiguous reference will not support a 102 rejection. In re Hughes, 345 F.2d 184, 145 USPQ 467 (CCPA 1965). In contrast, Applicant's claims 1, 11 and 25 particularly point out that the user supplies **"facts about an advertisement"**. Further, as is particularly pointed out in claims 1, 11, 25, 39 and 42 that the database accessed by the user through at least one search engine comprises **"details of a plurality of advertisements"**. A database comprising **"details of a plurality of advertisements"** is not found in Skillen. As pointed out by Applicant (Paper 3 at pp. 7-8) Skillen's "contextual database" "typically contains information relating to the Internet, for instance, keywords associated with respective www site locations." Further Skillen's disclosure describes a "product database", presumably having information about products. The databases disclosed in Skillen do not comprise **"details of a plurality of advertisements."** A description specifying a database having **"details of a plurality of advertisements"** is not the same as a "product database" because an advertisement for a product is not the same as the product it advertises. Further, Claim 25 particularly points out: **"generating a second list of keywords, said second list comprising keywords or phrases synonymously related to one or more keywords or phrases in said first list; using said second list and a second search engine to query said first subset; and reporting, to the user, results comprising a second subset of the contents of said database"** (Paper 1 Claim 25 as supported in ¶ 37.). As pointed out by Applicant, (Paper 3, at pp. 18-20). Examiner did not demonstrate that the above limitation can be found in Skillen and failed to do so subsequently in Papers 4 or 6. Accordingly, applicant believes that he has traversed the rejections of claims 1, 11 and 25 on multiple grounds.

As per claims 39 and 42, both claims recite **"accessing a database comprising details of a plurality of advertisements"** as well as **"receiving a list of search terms comprising words having connotative**

significance to a targeted demographic segment". The former limitation is not found in Skillen, while the latter limitation does not appear in Examiner's citation (Paper 3 at page 6 and Paper 7 at col. 2, lines 44-49) or anywhere else in Skillen. Applicant pointed out this fact (Paper 3 at pp. 20-21, Paper 5 at pp. 3-4). In Examiner's advisory action (Paper 6, at page 2), Examiner stated that "the term connotative has the meaning of argument, according to the online dictionary." Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner supply the full reference to "the online dictionary," including the publication date, wherein is recited "connotative has the meaning of argument." Moreover, Applicant asserts his right to be his own lexicographer under MPEP §2111.02 (III) and references contained therein. Applicant has supplied his own definition of "connotative" (Paper 1 at ¶ 18) which cannot be superseded by examiner's definition. The rejections of claims 39 and 42 are traversed on multiple grounds.

Rejection of claims 1, 39 and 42 as being unpatentable over Loeb under 35USC §102(e) and claims 11 and 25 as being unpatentable over Loeb under 35USC §103(a). Once again, the "all limitations rule" applies for anticipation rejections as set forth in MPEP §2131. Further, establishing a prima facie case of obviousness must meet the criteria set forth in MPEP §2142 and references cited therein.

As pointed out in Paper 3 at page 22, and in paper 5 at pp 4-5, Loeb does not "disclose[s] a method of supplying advertisement information to a user..." as alleged by Examiner (Paper 2 at page 7). Instead, Loeb discloses a "method and system for providing free subscriptions to magazines based on a universal questionnaire" (Paper 8 at Abstract). This is not the same invention disclosed in the instant application. As was pointed out by Applicant on two occasions (Paper 3 at pp. 22-23 and Paper 5 at pp. 4-5), nowhere in Loeb is disclosed or suggested "receiving, from the user, a series of search rules comprising facts about an advertisement." (Paper 1 at claims 1,11,25) Further, nowhere in Loeb is disclosed or suggested a "database comprising details of a plurality of advertisements" (Paper 1 at Claims 1, 11, 25, 39, 42). Further Nowhere in Loeb is disclosed or suggested "receiving a list of search terms comprising words having connotative significance to a targeted demographic segment" (Paper 1 at Claims 39, 42). Further, nowhere in Loeb is disclosed "generating a second list of keywords, said second list comprising keywords or phrases synonymously related to one or more

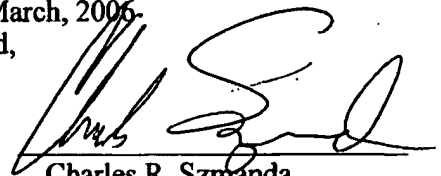
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keywords or phrases in said first list; using said second list and a second search engine to query said first subset; and reporting, to the user, results comprising a second subset of the contents of said database"

(Paper 1 at claim 25). Traversal of the 102(e) rejections based on Loeb has been documented amply (Paper 3 at pp. 22-25, pp. 31-33 and Paper 5, pp. 4-5). Examiner's rejections repeatedly describe the Loeb reference as disclosing "a method for supplying advertisement information to a user searching for said information within a data network" or in shortened form, "an advertising system" (Paper 2 at page 7, Paper 4 at Page 10). Those assertions are both factually inaccurate (as discussed supra) and irrelevant because all elements of the claims must be disclosed or inherent in the reference. They are not. Further, as per Claims 11 and 25, traversal of the 103(a) rejections has been amply documented (Paper 3, pp. 34-37). Examiner did not reply to Applicant's arguments regarding the 103(a) rejections in either of Papers 4 or 6. The rejections of record based on the Loeb reference have been traversed.

Dependent Claims. Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1. Claims 12-24 depend from claim 11. Claims 26-38 depend from Claim 25. Claims 40-41 depend from Claim 39. Claim 44 depends from claim 42. Therefore, the dependent claims include all of the limitations set forth in the claims from which they depend. Accordingly, applicant submits that rejection of the dependent claims is improper.

Dated this 9th day of March, 2006.
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

On 3/9/06



Charles R. Szmanda